

The Blossom Newsletter

October 2010

Page 1



Math

Happy Halloween! The month of October was very busy for us. We did a lot of work related to math. The first week we continued to work on what we had done previously. The second week we started to do fall math. The children went on a fall walk outside and we collected leaves of different colors, sizes and shapes. Then the children sorted them, counted them, and discussed their shapes. We discovered how they are different from each other and about specific types of leaves such as the maple leaf, which has five points. The children also learned to put them in size order. Afterward they worked on leaf rubbings, arranging the leaves in various ways: largest to smallest, in patterns, etc. This activity gave them experiences in sequencing, recognizing fall colors, and detecting the differences among leaves.

The rest of the month we spent celebrating Halloween. The children constructed scarecrows using cutout geometric shapes. During reading corner, we read the following math books: *Halloween Colors*, *Five Little Ghosts*, and *Halloween Countdown*. In our graph corner we created a chart: **What Fall Color is Your Favorite: Red, Yellow, or Brown?** The children will continue to work on previously learned and new games, hands-on activities, and puzzles.

Happy and safe Halloween!



Art

Happy autumn, everyone! The month of October has been spent learning and using in our artwork all the colors we see during the autumn! The children experimented with the colors brown, orange, red and yellow in a number of different ways. We also introduced new and exciting ways to apply paint to paper. This included using our hands and fingers to make trees, branches and leaves; using marbles dipped in paint and rolled onto paper; using strings dipped in paint and dropped onto our papers; and using special Halloween sponges dipped in paint. The children especially enjoyed making spider webs with yarn and glue. This two-part activity introduced the concept of first making a background for your artwork, and then decorating the foreground with a different color that is sure to stand out. We hope you all enjoy the special Jack-O-Lanterns that were created by all the children using newspapers, paper bags, paint and pipe cleaners. This was the largest project attempted by all the children so far, and helped to encourage the children to take pride in their artwork, especially when they put so much effort into it!

Some new vocabulary words learned this month in art are:

- Straight & curvy lines
- Top, bottom, sides, and corners of paper
- Watercolor paint
- Background
- Wide & tall
- Shades of colors

~Announcements~

The Seed will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26

September Birthdays

☆ Annabella ☆

☆ Jylls ☆

☆ Nicholas ☆

☆ Carly ☆

☆ Veebhu ☆



We hope that
all the children
have a safe and
exciting
Halloween!



Language Arts

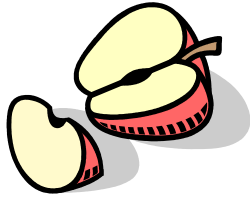
During the month of October we have been talking a lot about apple picking, fall, and Halloween. We have learned a great deal of apple, fall, and Halloween songs, poems, and finger plays. We also did a beautiful apple tree project with a poem attached. The children used their hands, wrists, palms, and fingers to create an apple tree using tempera paint.

We have been having fun using orange and black paint in the spirit of Halloween. We have finger painted the letters "Pp" and "Hh".

Here are two songs we have been learning:

Apple, apple on the tree,
I know you are good for me.
You are fun to munch and crunch,
In my snack or in my lunch.
Apple, apple on the tree,
I know you are good for me!

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate:
The first one said "Oh my, it's getting late!"
The second one said "There are witches in the air."
The third one said "But we don't care!"
The fourth one said "Let's run and run and run."
The fifth one said "I'm ready for some fun!"
"Oooooo," went the wind and OUT went the lights
And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight!



Science



Happy fall, everyone! Autumn has been another wonderful season to celebrate all the wonderful changes around us. The children, as scientists, spent time learning about autumn leaves, pumpkins, corn, and apples.

Here is a list of some exciting activities the children enjoyed in science class this month:

Autumn leaves are falling!

While studying this interesting theme, the children went on a leaf hunt, and collected so many leaves that everyone was able to observe leaves with magnifying glasses, compare maple leaves to other autumn leaves, immerse leaves in water and pile leaves into special containers. The children also learned the poem *Red and Yellow Leaves are Falling*.

Pumpkin time!

For this fun activity, the children painted and drew pictures of pumpkins, measured and weighed a real pumpkin and used magnifying glasses to see what was inside it. After all these, the children loved scooping out all the pumpkin seeds, washing the seeds and comparing them with other seeds. To learn more about pumpkins, the children planted the seeds and learned a very quite song called *Pumpkin, Pumpkin on the Ground*.

Corn is delicious!

Here the children looked at dry corn stalks and studied an ear of fresh corn with its husk and silk. We placed the whole corn cob in a container with water to see if would sprout. We will report the results of that experiment in our next newsletter. Don't miss it!

Apples ready to eat!

Everyone enjoyed learning about apple seeds, talking about what apple trees need to grow and saving apple flesh and peelings in containers to observe oxidation.

Have a safe and fun Halloween and don't miss our autumn bulletin board.



Yoga and Movement

During the month of October the children have been doing a lot of movement activities and yoga classes. When the weather is nice we have been going outside to the grass and playing *Duck, Duck, Goose*, *What Time is it Mr. Fox?*, and *Red Light, Green Light*. The children really enjoy these structured group activities – and especially being outside!

Gearing up for Halloween we have pretended to be ghosts, pumpkins, and black cats during yoga class. The children love pretending to scare each other in these poses!

